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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 04261 170536 Z

10
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 FBIE-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 IO-12 DPW-01 SS-14 SY-07 USSS-00 CIAE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

USIA-12 JUSE-00 RSR-01 /115 W
---------- 080300
R 170432 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1514
JHRC CLARK AFB
DIA
INFO CINCPAC

UNCLAS BANGKOK 4261

E. O. 11652 : N/ A
TAGS MPOS, TH, CGEN
SUBJECT: RETURNEE BOBBY JOE KEESEE

REF: BANGKOK 4248

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT EDITORIAL MARCH 17 BANGKOK POST UNDER
HEADLINE " LET' S EXTRADITE KEESEE":

QUOTE:

L AFFAIRE BOBBY JEO KEESEE IS ONE WHICH COULD PROVE GRIST FOR
ADOZEN HOLLYWOOD SCENARISTS OR MYSTERY WRITERS WAS THIS BEEFY
AMERICAN WHO HIJACKED A THAI PLANE TO NORTH VIETNAME A MENTAL
DEFECTIVE? A WAR PROTESTER? A DOUBLE OR TRIPLE SPY WHO GOT
HIS PRIORTIES CONFUSED?
WAS THERE A COLLUSION BETWEEN THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AND KEESEE?

FOR THREE YEARS THAI OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE HAVE BEEN
KEPT IN THE DARK ON THIS STORY, BUT THE LIGHT MAY BEGIN TO SHINE
SOON. AND WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE AMERICAN STATE DEPARTMENT
IS AS IGNORANT OF KEESEE' S PLANS AND BACKGROUUND AS IT STATES
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THEY TOO MAY HAVE SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK AND PERHAPS
AN INTERESTING SCENARIO OF THEIR OWN TO CREATE NEXT WEEK FROM
THE THAI POINT OF VIEW THOUGH OUTSIDE OF THE INCREDIBLE INTEREST
AND CURRIOSITY VALUE THE KEESEE AFAIR IS FAR MORE SERIOUS. IF
IT IS TRUE THAT A PLANCE OF BIRA TRANSPORT COMPANY WAS HIJACKED
TO NORTH VIETNAM THEN THAILAND MUST INDEED ASK FOR KEESEE' S
EXTRADITION TO THIS COUNTRY FOR TRIAL WITH FITTING PUNISHMENT
IF FOUND GUILTY THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY ALLEGATIONS THESE PAST
FEW YEARS THAT THAILAND IS IN A SUBSERVIENTPOSITION VIS- A- VIS
THE UNITED STATES. YET WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT WE DEPEND SOMEWHAT
ON THE AMERICANS MILITARILY AND ECONOMICLLY IT IS EQUALLY
TRUE OUR OWN INDEPENDENCE IN A CASE SUCH
AS KEESEE' S IS UNQUESTIONED.

SO FAR AS THE FACTS WE KNOW HE IS GUILTY OF : A) FORCEFULLY TAKING
A PLANCE FROM THAI TERRITORY TO ENEMY TERRITORY; B)
OWING MONEY TO BIRA AIR COMPANY; C)
OWING MONEY TO SAHAKOL AIR COMPANY; D) ILLEGALLY USING A FIREARM.

THESE ARE SERIOUS CHARGES INDEED AND THAILAND HAS THE RIGHT TO
CONFRONT

KEESEE ON OUR OWN TERRITORY WITH THESE CHARGES. THIS IS APPARENTLY
NO CASE OF POLITICAL ASYLUM AND IT IS APPARENTLY NO
WAGING THE WAR AGAINST VIETNAM IT IS A CASE OF CRIME PURE AND SIMPLE
THE FACT REMAINS THAT THOUGH THAILAND AND AMERICA HAVE AN
EXTRADITION
TREATY WE HAVE NEVER USED IT BEFORE THIS IS AN OCCASION WHEN
IT MUST BE PUT INTO EFFECT. BOBBY JOE KEESEE MUST BE
BROUGHT BACK TO THAILAND AND MADE TO FACE THE MUSIC
END QUOTE

2. OTHER PRESS OVERAGE SINCE REFTEL LIMITED TO WIRE SERVICE
REPORTS FROM CLARK AFB.

3. COMMENT: EDITORIAL ABOVE KEEPS POT SIMMERING AND INCREASES
LIKELIHOOD APPROACH CITED PARA 6 REFTEL. HOPE INFO REQUESTED
PARA 7 REFTEL WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971211
Subject: RETURNEE BOBBY JOE KEESEE
TAGS: CGEN, MOPS, TH
To: CINCPAC
DIA
EA
JHRC CLARK AFB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
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